



Thunderbirds

of Southwest Ohio
Newsletter

February 2022



MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: As his first public duty as our newly-elected leader, President Roger Hamm dropped the gavel at 7:00 PM promptly, in our meeting room at MCL. He welcomed those members present and wished them all a happy new year. He expressed the hope that all had a happy holiday season, and that many had a chance to spend the holidays with family and loved ones.

As part of his opening remarks, President Roger called retired President Brett Andrews to the front of the room for a special recognition in honor of Brett's previous 2 years of service to the club. The members presented him with a Brio Restaurant gift card, along with a ream of paper to try to make a dent in replacing all his paper that he has used on behalf of the club over the period of his term.

Vice-President Scott McGaha (who has been out of town for several weeks helping to care for an ill family member) then asked about the October Covered Bridge Tour. Scott had been unable to attend the tour and tonight's meeting was the first that he had been able to attend since being called out of town. In response to Scott's question, the conversation in the room drifted to the tour and all the fun that we had. There were many favorable comments and reminiscences about the tour.

Attendees: Those members in attendance were Roger & Lisa Hamm, Dave and Deb Harvey, Scott McGaha, Brett & Peg Andrews, Mark & Jackie Allen, and James Russell.

Approval of Minutes: President Roger put the train back on the track and asked if anyone had any corrections to make to the minutes of our meeting on November 11, 2021 (remember, our December get-together was strictly social, so this was the first opportunity to officially approve the November minutes, published in the December newsletter). Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the November minutes. The motion was made by Peg Andrews and seconded by Scott McGaha; it was passed unanimously.

Membership Update Discussion: There was considerable discussion about prior contacts that club members have made with various prospects, but unfortunately none of those contacts has yet resulted in any new members.

No one reported having bought or sold a Thunderbird recently, although James Russell is apparently thinking pretty seriously about acquiring a 1967 4-door. He elaborated a little on several similar cars that he has looked at, but the '67 seems to be the leading contender.

Dave Harvey reported that he has acquired a replacement rear float bowl for the carburetor in his and Deb's '57, and one of these days (probably when it gets a bit warmer), he and Roger will get together to install it. For those interested, Dave showed a video that he had taken showing 2 solid streams of gas spewing from a fitting on the side of that rear float bowl. There was 100% agreement among those who saw the video that Holley carbs aren't supposed to do that and attempting to drive it would almost certainly lead to disaster once the engine warmed up.

Sunshine Committee Report: Birthdays in January included Roger Hamm (on the 16th) and Paul Loschi (on the 18th). The only anniversary in January is for Guy & Jan Gifford, who will celebrate their 66th anniversary on the 28th (CONGRATULATIONS to Guy & Jan!).

A sympathy card was sent to Jim Hayden, due to the passing of his son.

Peg reported that over the course of the past year 54 cards were sent by the Sunshine Committee (a job recognized by all in attendance as being well done by this committee).

Treasurer's Report: Lisa presented her Treasurer's report, detailing both receipts and disbursements for the past 2 months (remember, no Treasurer's report was given at our December social). Any unpaid 2022 dues are now past due, so Lisa will send out any necessary reminders to those members who haven't yet paid their dues.

Club Activities/Events: Everyone agreed that the November cookout at Valley Vineyards was a success (even though all cooking had to be done at the outdoor grill, which was certainly chilly).

There was discussion about a January indoor event, and the group gravitated toward the idea of a meal together on either a Saturday or Sunday. After some discussion, the logical choice seemed to be a breakfast/brunch, which would leave time for those football fanatics to catch their games in the afternoon. Several locations were mentioned, including First Watch, Original Pancake House, Cracker Barrel, Another Broken Egg Café, Bob Evans, and Christopher's. Given the rather impromptu nature of the planning, the group decided against the 15th, and discussed doing the event on either the 22nd or 29th. After talking things over, the final decision was to meet at 10:00 AM on Saturday, January 29th, at Christopher's in the Kettering Town Center, 2318 E. Dorothy Ln, Kettering, OH. Scott will send an email to all members so that even those who weren't at tonight's meeting will be aware of the plan for the January event, and hopefully will decide to join us there.

Old Business: There was quite a bit of discussion around club apparel, including who had already ordered something from Twin Design, and who was thinking about it. Brett modeled a logo that he had put on one of his own shirts, which was a creative variation on our standard logo. Dave mentioned again that he and Deb had gone into the store to place their order, having become overwhelmed by the voluminous catalog. They reported that the in-person shopping experience was very favorable, and they highly recommend that approach.

There was further discussion about getting rid of our 2 "Car Show" signs, as we no longer are involved with car shows. Deb Harvey had asked if there was anything else that the club owned, other than these signs. Brett reported that our inventory includes (in addition to the aforementioned signs) two pop-up canopies (one 10x10, one 10x12), two Thunderbird club banners, three "oldies" CDs, and 6 walkie-talkie

radios (1 non-functional). Brett recommended that we keep the walkie-talkies & club banners and try to find another club that might be interested in the remaining "stuff."

Due to the light attendance at tonight's meeting, Brett suggested that this topic be discussed at a future meeting where there will be more members present, in order to get a better sense of what the group wants to do. Any final disposition of Club property will require approval of our Board of Directors, but they are interested in receiving input from all club members in order to guide that approval process.

New Business: Brett has prepared a number of new membership kits. These kits include club flyers, membership applications, business cards, etc. It was recommended that everyone carry one of these kits in their Thunderbirds, as one never knows when it might come in handy.

There was some discussion about affiliating our club with Ford Performance Connect. Everyone seemed to be in favor of moving ahead with that, and Brett volunteered to be the lead person for this and will report back at the February meeting.

Calendar of Car Events: Next month's meeting will be held at MCL on Thursday, February 10th. As always, dinner (if you care to partake and enjoy the informal companionship of like-minded 'Bird enthusiasts) will begin at approximately 6:00 pm, with the business meeting beginning promptly at 7:00 PM.

Open Floor: Scott mentioned that his brother had given him three walkie-talkies, two of which appear to be in good working order (one is marginal). Scott asked if the club would be interested in having these radios to go with those we already have. There was some discussion around channel compatibility, and Brett indicated that they would have to be checked out. However, he gladly accepted Scott's offer.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the group, President Roger asked for a motion for adjournment. Brett moved for adjournment, and his motion was seconded by Jackie Allen. The motion passed unanimously, and President Roger hammered the meeting to a close at 7:43 PM (coincidentally, at exactly the same time as the November meeting wrapped up - how about that?).

Roger Hamm
President



Birthdays & Anniversaries in February: We have several birthdays to celebrate in February and one anniversary. As you see, we have one member celebrating their birthday on Valentine's Day. The happiest birthday and anniversary wishes to all our February celebrants from the TSWO membership.



February Birthdays
Peg Andrews (11th)
Nancy Moore (14th)
Jim Hayden (19th)
Gina Hctor (24th)

February Anniversaries
Karl & Meritta Eby (9th)
(21 yrs)



Thoughts from the President:

Hello, fellow TSWO members. It is now February, and we have definitely found winter here in Ohio! This morning, we woke up with a temperature of 0 degrees outside...BRRRR. I am definitely ready for the warm weather of spring to arrive. February is also the month when we celebrate Valentine's Day, a day to remember the one who took our hearts away and made us want to spend the rest of our lives with (those who are married, that is) or to remember that one person who always leaves a warm place in your heart, such as your Mom, Dad, Grandmother or Grandfather-even your favorite pet!

Valentine's Day is celebrated every February 14th across the United States and in other places around the world. Candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, in the name of St. Valentine. The history of Valentine's Day is shrouded in mystery. It has long been celebrated as a month of romance and that St. Valentine's Day as we know it, contains much Christian and ancient Roman tradition. Some trace Valentine's Day origins to a Christian effort to replace a pagan fertility festival that dates back as far as the 6th century B.C., when during the festival of Lupercalia, Roman priests would sacrifice a goat for fertility and a dog for purification. They would then strip the goat's hide into strips and would gently whip women with the hides of the animals they had just slain. Women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, the women would place their names in a big urn and the city's bachelors each would choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

Later on, Pope Gelasius I changed things by combining St Valentine's Day with Lupercalia to expel the pagan rituals. Then as time went on, famous writers and poets found a way to make this dark holiday a bit sweeter by romanticizing it in their work, resulting in the creation of handmade paper cards for this special day during the Middle Ages.

The Industrial Revolution during the 19th century, along with the popularity of this holiday in the western world began the process of factory-made cards and in 1913, Hallmark Cards of Kansas City, MO, began mass-producing Valentine's Day cards. Today, Valentine's Day brings in approximately \$18 billion dollars a year in sales.

February is also known for the month when the famous groundhog, Puxatawney Phil emerges from his temporary home on Gobbler's Knob. According to tradition, if Phil sees his shadow and returns to his hole, he has predicted six more weeks of winter weather. If Phil does not see his shadow, he has predicted an early spring. I, therefore, am hoping that he does **NOT** see his shadow!

Have a great February and let's all hope for an early spring.

Roger



Club Brunch at Christopher's Restarant (written by: By Roger Hamm)

On Saturday, January 29, 2022, twelve members of Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio (TSWO) got together at Christopher's Restaurant in Kettering, Ohio for our monthly activity. The members in attendance were Roger & Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Jackie & Mark Allen, James Russell, Sherry & Paul Loschi, Deb & Dave Harvey, Dave Menke & Tom Tirey. Unfortunately, Peg & Brett Andrews were not able to be in attendance. We all had a great time talking about everything and anything. The servers were very pleasant and took good care of getting our food out to us and making sure we had plenty of juice, coffee and tea.

We started arriving just before 10 AM and by about 10:15, all were ready for our food. Everyone got their orders in and shortly afterwards our food started arriving at our table. Most everyone was surprised at the size of the servings, with Tom probably most surprised with his pancakes, which he said were the size of manhole covers! I will admit, they were about the largest pancakes I have ever seen. We all laughed about Tom calling them manhole covers and also enjoyed the sizes of everything on everyones plates.

After much conversation and all our tummies being filled up and two hours later, we all decided it was time to say our goodbyes and go on our merry ways. We look forward to our next outing, which I am sure Scott is ready to plan for February which will be discussed in our February club meeting which will be on February 10, 2022 at MCL Cafeteria at 7:00 PM sharp! See you all there.

The below photo was taken by Scott. The remainder of his photos of the event and his writeup about the brunch can be found in the "Recent Events" section on our website.



Did You Know? I Didn't The Flairbird Seat Belt Light: A Changing Design

(prepared by: Brett Andrews)



I'm always on the lookout for interesting items to include in our club newsletter. While scanning the 64-66 Thunderbird group section on Facebook, I ran across a question raised about the varying location of the seat belt light on the 64' to 66' T-birds. One of the respondents to the question indicated they had read an article that addressed this very topic. Upon searching the internet, I came across what appears to be that publication (or one similar in content). After reading it, I was surprised to note the variations in location of the light was more than just the subtle changes you'd expect to see across these three very similar model years. For those of you with a 64' to 66' bird you may find this article doubly interesting to the point that you may want to check out the light location on your Flairbird. According to the article, there is possibly one extremely unique Flairbird out there when it comes to the warning light. If you happen to be so lucky as to own it, you may have just increased the value of your Thunderbird. In the following paragraph I have tried to summarize the gist of the article in hopes of stimulating your interest to the point you'll seek it out online and read it.

ARTICLE SUMMARY: This unique article addresses the various locations in the 1964 through 1966 Flairbirds as to where this warning light was located and why during these three years. Unfortunately, it wasn't so cut and dry as just put it in a certain place on a certain year and be done with it. No, when one location looked promising for a while, Ford would be happy, but then customer input pressured Ford to making changes. Again, unfortunately, some of these changes tackled by Ford in one year did not appear in the vehicles until the following year. In addition, the issue was not limited to just the light. Additional concerns were raised about the method of activation and deactivation of the light to include what activated/deactivated it and where that mechanism was located. You can find the article at <http://automotivemileposts.com/tbird1964beltreminder.html>. You'll be interestingly surprised at the convoluted genesis and migration of the seat belt warning light and its activation mechanism. I guarantee if you're a Flairbird lover, you'll really find this article well worth the read.



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